

DRAFT
THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

The Credentials Committee of the Virginia Board of Counseling ("Board") convened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Johnston Brendel called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Johnston Brendel
Charles McAdams
John Penn Turner
Charlotte Markva

COMMITTEE MEMBER

ABSENT:

Catherine Shwaery

STAFF PRESENT:

Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Catherine Chappell, Acting Executive Director
Deborah Harris, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Lang, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Larimer, Deputy Executive Director - Discipline

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Brendel welcomed the Committee members and called the meeting to order. The minutes from the February 3, 2012, meeting were approved as written.

CLOSED SESSION:

Charlotte Markva moved that the Credentials Committee of the Board of Counseling convene in Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(4) in accordance with Section 2.2-3704(A) and 54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia to discuss applications for licensure. She further moved that Howard Casway, Catherine Chappell, Patricia Larimer, Deborah Harris, and Jennifer Lang attend the Closed Meeting because their presence in the Closed Meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

OPEN SESSION:

Charlotte Markva moved that pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, that the Committee heard, discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

DECISIONS:

The Committee considered twenty (20) applications with respect to degree requirements, coursework, supervision, and convictions. The Credentials Committee approved two (2) applications, denied twelve (12) requests, and deferred six (6) applications because additional information on degree programs and/or supervised experience was needed.

The Committee discussed the continuing high volume of complex applications received in the Board office and agreed that the application process is lengthy and can be complicated. The Committee found that applications that arrive complete and properly documented are processed promptly. Only those files that are problematic require additional processing time.

With respect to approval dates to begin supervision, the Committee agreed that no determination on an applicant's file can be made until a complete registration of supervision form is submitted.

The Committee agreed that staff is to continue to request mission statements, faculty rosters, and syllabi from the time an applicant was enrolled in the program for files in which the credentials reviewers are unable to determine whether the program prepared the applicant to practice counseling and counseling treatment intervention in accordance with Regulation 18VAC115-20-49. The Committee discussed that while multiple professions engage in counseling activity, each profession has distinct core philosophies and standards that predicate the manner in which the counseling activity is to be conducted. The Committee agreed that there is a difference between the activity of counseling and the profession of Counseling.

The Committee confirmed that supervisors are "gatekeepers" who determine whether a resident is competent to independently treat the mental health needs of clients. Supervisors assume full responsibility for the clinical activities of their residents as specified within the supervisory contract for the duration of the residency.

NEXT MEETING:

The Committee agreed to meet again on May 17, 2012, for quarterly file review and further discussion of application issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Credentials Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Johnston Brendel, Chair

Catherine Chappell
Acting Executive Director